

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 05351 111551Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

IO-13 EUR-12 HA-05 /094 W

-----079873 111810Z /11

R 111530Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2491

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 5351

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SEPTEMBER 29

REFS: A) PRETORIA 4942, B) PRETORIA 5151

1. THE FOURTH STATE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE CHOSEN IN CAPE TOWN BY MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON SEPTEMBER 29. THE NEW PRESIDENT IS SCHEDULED TO BE INAUGURATED ON KRUGER DAY, OCTOBER 10. ONE CANDIDATE HAS ALREADY BEEN PUT FORWARD, THE FORMER LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF. HE WAS NOMINATED BY THE NEW REPUBLIC PARTY WHOSE CHAIRMAN, VAUSE RAW, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING DE VILLIERS GRAAFF WAS NOMINATED BECAUSE THE NRP "WOULD LIKE TO SEE A STATE PRESIDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA WHO DOES NOT COME FROM THE RANKS OF ACTIVE POLITICIANS." THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY WILL NOT RUN A CANDIDATE AND THE PFP REPORTEDLY WILL DECIDE AT A CAUCUS THIS WEEKEND WHETHER TO NOMINATE ANYONE.

2. DESPITE THE ELECTION DATE AND OTHER NOMINATIONS, THE NEW PRESIDENT WILL EFFECTIVELY BE CHOSEN WHEN THE NATIONALIST PARTY  
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CAUCUSES IN CAPE TOWN ON SEPTEMBER 28. IN RECENT DAYS, PRESS REPORTS HAVE AGAIN FLOATED THE POSSIBILITY THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER HILGARD MULLER COULD BE THE NOMINEE, RATHER THAN TRANSPORT SECRETARY S.L. MULLER.

3. UNISA PROFESSOR ANDRE DUPISANI TOLD EMBOFFS THAT MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CHRIS HEUNIS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE CABINET

IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA OF ELECTING AN INTERIM  
PRESIDENT WHO WOULD STEP DOWN IF ASKED WHEN THE NEW CONS-  
TITUTIONAL SET-UP TAKES EFFECT. A NATIONALIST MP, HOWEVER, TOLD  
US THE NEW STATE PRESIDENT WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE WOULD  
PROBABLY BE REQUIRED TO STEP DOWN WITHIN TWO YEARS.  
EDMONDSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR05351  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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